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AN ORDINANCE
BY COUNCILMEMBERS H. LAMAR WILLIS AND C.T. MARTIN

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, CHAPTER 162, ARTICLE 2, SECTIONS 162-77(2) AND (5) SO AS TO AMEND THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR TAXICAB DRIVERS BY DELETING THE ONE YEAR WAITING PERIOD FOR TAXICAB DRIVERS AND PROVIDING EXEMPTIONS FROM ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TESTING; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta has an interest in maintaining the public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its police powers the City of Atlanta is authorized to enact legislation to regulate certain types of businesses and industries which could potentially affect the public health, safety and welfare, including businesses which involve Vehicles for Hire.

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Atlanta, Georgia hereby ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 162, Article 2, Section 162-77(2) of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to delete the current language and to insert in lieu thereof the following language so that said subsection shall read as follows:

Section 162-77(2). Possess a valid Georgia license at the time of application, which license is not limited as defined in O.C.G.A. § 40-5-64, and have possessed a valid license of any state for the one year period immediately prior to date of application.

SECTION 2. That Chapter 162, Article 2, Section 162-77(5) of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to delete the current language and to insert in lieu thereof the following language so that said subsection shall read as follows:

Section 162-77(5). Exhibit a proficiency with the English language so as to be able to comprehend and interpret traffic signs, issue written receipts to passengers and obey lawful orders of police and others in lawful authority, provided however, that an applicant who (1) has become a United States citizen through the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service process; and (2) produces a certified copy of a diploma from an American high school or college, shall be exempt from any testing requirements for English proficiency.

SECTION 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.